

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN, KU
SUBJ: IMF MEXICO CITY MEETINGS: AL-ATEEQI IS GOING, BUT NOT
THE RIGHT ONE

REF: (A) STATE 105741, (B) KUWAIT 2198, (C) STATE 099337

1. KHALED AL-ATEEQI, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF KUWAIT'S CENTRAL BANK, WILL BE KUWAIT'S SOLE REPRESENTATIVE AT IMF INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETING IN MEXICO CITY APRIL 29-30. HE TOLD US THAT HIS RELATIVE, FINANCE MINISTER ATEEQI, WILL NOT RPT NOT ATTEND THE CONFERENCE. MINISTER IS OUT OF COUNTRY AND UNLIKELY TO RETURN UNTIL APRIL 27. MINISTER'S OFFICE IS UNAWARE OF ANY PLAN FOR HIM TO ATTEND THE MEETING.

2. ATEEQI IS YOUNG (LATE 20'S), BRIGHT, AND RECENTLY APPOINTED TO HIS POSITION, HAVING PREVIOUSLY BEEN MANAGER OF THE CENTRAL BANK'S FOREIGN OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT. HE TRIES TO KEEP ABREAST OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL MATTERS EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE OFTEN SOMEWHAT DISTANT FROM THE DAY-TO-DAY CONCERNS OF HIS WORK. HE IS A GOOD LISTENER AND WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE US, ALTHOUGH SOMETIMES MILDLY CRITICAL OF OUR POLICIES. HE TOLD ECON CHIEF APRIL 26 THAT KUWAIT'S MAIN INTEREST IN INTERIM
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COMMITTEE MEETING WAS QUESTION OF IMF QUOTAS AND VOTING RIGHTS, SINCE KUWAIT FELT THAT OPEC COUNTRIES' VOTING RIGHTS DID NOT ADEQUATELY REFLECT THEIR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ORGANIZATION. HE MENTIONED THAT OPEC MEMBERS ONLY HAD 9.3 PERCENT OF THE VOTE IN THE IMF WHEN THE FIGURE SHOULD BE 15 PERCENT. HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN AT RECENT ATTEMPTS IN US CONGRESS TO REQUIRE THE US TO RAISE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

AS A CONDITION OF US PARTICIPATION IN THE WITTEVEEN FACILITY.
ECON CHIEF REPLIED THAT WHILE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTS
US PARTICIPATION IN THIS FACILITY, IT OPPOSES THE HUMAN
RIGHTS AMENDMENT (APRIL 21 NESA WIRELESS FILE, ITEM NO. 83).

3. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR A MIDDLE LEVEL MEMBER
OF THE TREASURY DELEGATION TO THIS CONFERENCE TO SEARCH OUT
ATEEQI DURING THE MEETING FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. ATEEQI
HAS US VISA AND MAY SPEND COUPLE OF DAYS IN US UPON RETURN.
UPON THE OFF-CHANCE THAT HE MIGHT VISIT WASHINGTON, WE GAVE
HIM THE NUMBER OF NEA/ARP'S ZIOLKOWSKI.
MAESTRONE

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